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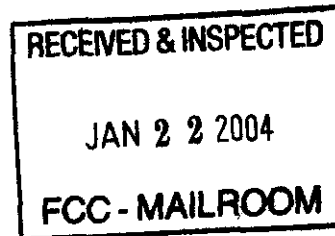
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January 13, 2004
Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554



RE *Ex Parte* Notice

In the Matter of

Federal State Board on Universal Service, CC Docket No. 03-255

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Consistent with commission rules, this communication is submitted to be filed in the above referenced docket. On January 7, 2004 Greg Berberich, CEO of Matanuska Telephone Association Cooperative, Jack Rhyner, CEO of TelAlaska, Inc. and I met with FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin, member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and his Senior Legal Advisor, Daniel Gonzalez. In support of the social policy of universal service and the social contract upon which rural incumbent local exchange carriers have invested to comply with carrier of last resort responsibility, we advocated against a study area freeze on the universal service fund and for substantial guiding standards for the designation of competitive eligible telecommunications carrier status. Further, we opined that any "primary line" recommendation, along with being an administrative nightmare if not an impossibility, was likely to result in harm to the goal of universal service by providing insufficient support for a designated carrier of last resort.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Rowe".

Jim Rowe

cc: Daniel Gonzalez